Steud., *Desmodium elegans* DC., *Lonicera quinquelocularis* Hardw. and *Myrsine africana* Linn. Besides, there is a very dense growth of herbaceous plants including ferns. The vegetation is so luxuriant and thick that it makes the forest at certain places almost impenetrable during the rainy season.

There is a distinct layer of humus in the soil overlayed by undecomposed leaf litter. *Monotropa* was fairly common in the decaying vegetable matter on the forest floor. The moisture absorbing humus soil is very slippery and coupled with very thick growth of plants and the absence of any regular path make botanizing hazardous. It appears that probably because of these difficulties, this forest has not been explored botanically at least during monsoon months and hence the plant has escaped the attention of earlier botanists.

A brief description of the plant follows :

A succulent, glabrous, waxy white, non-chlorophyllous, unbranched herb, 10-25 cm tall. Stem erect, covered with alternate, broadly lanceolate, appressed scales 2 ×0.7 cm or under. Normal leaves absent. Flowers 2-3 ×1.5-2.5 cm, waxy white, solitary, terminal, nodding. Sepals 4, scale-like. Petals 5, obovate-oblong. Stamens 10, filaments pilose below. Ovary globose, 5-celled ; ovules numerous on axile placentas. Capsule erect, globose, loculicidal, 5-valved.

The plant is often hidden among leaf litter and its location requires patience and concentration. It turns black on drying.

Specimens examined : M. Sharma 545, 5384 (PUN).

Flowers and Fruits : August-October.

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September 26, 1980.

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36. A NOTE ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF TWO PENINSULAR INDIAN PLANTS

Oldenlandia wightii Hook. f. (Rubiaceae) and *Reidia ovalifolia* Wt. (Euphorbiaceae) are two endemic species of southern Peninsular India. The correct nomenclature of these two taxa is given below.

1. **Hedyotis wightii** (Hook.f.) K. K. N. Nair *comb. nov.*

Oldenlandia wightii Hook f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 3 : 66. 1880 ; Gamble, Fl. Presid. Madras 2 : 601 (424). 1921.

Type : Western Peninsula, *Robert Wight* Kew Dist. no. 1511 ; (CAL).

Distribution ; South-West India.

Hooker (loc. cit.) erected the species *Oldenlandia wightii* based on Robert Wight's specimens from Peninsular India, characterised by scabrid stems with woody base and triangular-lanceate calyx-lobes which equals the capsules in their length. Gamble (loc.cit.) followed Hooker in considering this plant as a distinct species, but noted 'a stiff herb much resembling the last, perhaps not really distinct'. [Here 'the last' is meant for *Hedyotis umbellata* (Linn.) Lamk.]. Gamble's doubt on the taxonomic status of this plant was verified during the present study and it was found to be quite distinct from *Hedyotis umbellata* in its scabrid stem and branches woody towards base, linear-lanceate, revolute leaves up to 2.5 × 0.3 cm, and hemispherical, scabrid, loculicidal capsules almost covered by the calyx-lobes.

Recent morphological studies of Fosberg (Va. J. Sci. 2 : 106-111. 1941 ; Castania 19 : 25-37. 1954), Shinners (Field & Lab. 17 : 166-169. 1949) and Lewis (South West. Nat. 3 : 204-207. 1959 ; Rhodora 63 : 216-223. 1961) had led to the merging of *Hedyotis* Linn., *Oldenlandia* Linn., *Houstania* Linn., *Kohantia* Cham. and *Excellange* Bremek. under *Hedyotis*. Subsequently, Henry and Subramanyam (Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci. 76 (1) Sect. B. : 28. 1972) and Rao and Hemadri (Ind. Forest. 99 : 372-379. 1973) had transferred most of the Indian species of *Oldenlandia* under *Hedyotis*. *Oldenlandia wightii*, so far treated under the genus *Oldenlandia* is transferred here under *Hedyotis*.

2. **Eriococcus ovalifolia** (Wt.) K.K.N. Nair *comb. nov.*

Reidia ovalifolia Wt. Ic. Pl. Ind. Orient. t. 1904. fig. 3. 1852.

Phyllanthus longiflorus Heyne (Wall. Cat. no. 7905. 1847 *nom. nud.*) *ex* Hook. f. Fl. Brit. Ind. 5 : 302. 1887.

Reidia longiflora (Heyne *ex* Hook.f.) Gamble, Fl. Presid. Madras 2 : 1293 (905). 1925.

Type : Wight Icone 1904. fig. 31 : (Iconotype) (CAL).

Distribution : Southern Peninsular India.

Hooker (loc. cit.) doubted the concept of Mueller (Linnaea 32 : 49. 1865) who considered *Reidia ovalifolia* Wt. and *R. longiflorus* Heyne *ex* Hook. f. as conspecific, on the ground that the leaves in *R. ovalifolia* is comparatively narrow and smaller than that of *R. longiflorus*. A critical study of a number of specimens at Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India (CAL) led the author to the conclusion that the two taxa are one and the same as was accepted by Mueller (loc. cit.) and Gamble (loc. cit.).

The concept of considering *Eriococcus* Hassk. (*Reidia* Wt.) as a distinct genus from *Phyllanthus* Linn. is accepted here. Eventhough Henry and Subramanyam (Taxon 16 : 250-251. 1967) had proposed to conserve the commonly used generic name *Reidia* Wt. (1852) against *Eriococcus* Hassk. (1843) which has priority over *Reidia*, the proposal was not accepted by the nomenclature committee. Hence this new combination is proposed to make the nomenclature of the species up-to-date.

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